

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-11 ISO-00 INRE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00

USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SAM-01 /071 R

DRAFTED BY AF/W-EWLOLLIS:DFP

APPROVED BY AF- AMB. SCHAUFELLE

AF/W-JKBISHOP

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LAGOS NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA IMMEDIATE

ALL AFRICAN DIPLOMATIC POSTS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMCONSUL KADUNA IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL IBADAN IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 006704

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS:PFOR, NI, AO

SUBJECT: DIPLOMATIC REPLY TO NIGERIAN ATTACK ABOUT ANGOLA

REF: STATE 4845

1. ASSISTANT SECRETARY SCHAUFELLE CONVOKED NIGERIAN AMBASSADOR
SANU JANUARY 8, BUT SANU WAS IN NEW YORK, AND MEETING DID
NOT TAKE PLACE UNTIL HIS RETURN TO WASHINGTON ON JANUARY 9.

2. THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY EXPRESSED OUR SHOCK AND DISMAY
AT THE RELEASE BY FMG OF PRESIDENT FORD'S LETTER AND THE
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INTEMPERATE NATURE OF THE FMG'S PUBLIC REACTION TO THE

LETTER AND TO HIS OWN TRIP TO CERTAIN AFRICAN COUNTRIES.
HE GAVE THE AMBASSADOR A COPY OF THE STATEMENT RELEASED
JANUARY 8 AND ORALLY DELIVERED MANY OF ITS POINTS.

3. SPECIFIC PORTIONS OF THE FMG STATEMENT REFUTED BY THE
ASSISTANT SECRETARY WERE THE INACCURATE ASSERTION THAT US
SENATE HAD CUT OFF FUNDS FOR ANGOLA, IMPLICATION THAT THE

ASSISTANT SECRETARY COULD HAVE TWISTED ARMS OF THE COUNTRIES
VISITED ON HIS RECENT TRIP, CHARACTERIZATION OF THE PRESI-

DENT'S LETTER AS A DIRECTIVE TO OAU RATHER THAN THE APPEAL
FOR AFRICAN SOLUTION TO ANGOLA PROBLEM WHICH IT WAS IN-
TENDED TO BE, CHARGE THAT US SUPPORTED PORTUGAL OVER THE
INDEPENDENCE MOVEMENTS, AND COLLUSION BETWEEN USG AND SAG
ON LATTER'S PRESENCE IN ANGOLA.

4. THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY TOLD THE AMBASSADOR THAT US IS
NOT IN ANGOLA BUT IS RENDERING MODEST ASSISTANCE TO FNLA
AND UNITA IN RESPONSE TO URGENT PLEAS FROM THEM AND FROM
SOME AFRICAN GOVERNMENTS WHO FEARED THAT THEIR EFFORTS
WOULD BE LOST BY SOVIET EFFORTS TO IMPOSE MPLA. HE SAID
USG HAS NOTHING AGAINST MPLA.

5. THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY SAID WE DISCUSSED ANGOLA WITH
FMG AT MINISTERIAL LEVEL ON THREE RECENT OCCASIONS AND
WERE PLEASED THAT OUR DIFFERENCES OF POLICY DID NOT INTER-
FERE WITH OUR ABILITY TO DISCUSS THE ISSUE. HOWEVER,
HARSH TONE OF RECENT FMG STATEMENT COULD HARM OUR RELA-
TIONS.

6. AMBASSADOR SANU EXCUSED HIMSELF FROM EXPLAINING ALL
ASPECTS OF LAGOS' POLICY. HE ASKED THAT THE STATEMENT BE
VIEWED IN CONTEXT OF NEW REGIME WHICH IS SEEKING NEW AP-
PROACH TO AFRICAN PROBLEMS GENERALLY. THIS ISSUE WAS IN
FACT A TEST FOR THE NEW REGIME. SOUTH AFRICAN AND MERCE-
NARY INVOLVEMENT WERE THE TWO FACTORS WHICH HAVE VERY
GREATEST IMPACT ON NIGERIAN REACTION TO ANGOLAN QUESTION.
SIZE ALONE MADE NIGERIA MORE SENSITIVE THAN OTHER STATES
TO ISSUES INVOLVING THE DIGNITY OF THE BLACK MAN. HE
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PROMISED CONVEY THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY'S REMARKS TO HIS
GOVERNMENT AND EXPRESSED HOPE THAT OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS
WOULD REMAIN GOOD.

7. IN PARTING, THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY EXPRESSED THE
DEPARTMENT'S APPRECIATION FOR THE ASSISTANCE OF THE
NIGERIAN POLICE IN CONTROLLING THE DEMONSTRATION WHICH
OCCURRED JANUARY 8 AT THE CONSULATE IN KADUNA. KISSINGER

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